

# KANSAS SENTINEL

November 2010

Volume 1, Issue 9

"Lioness" receives CAB after 7 years

**Hall of Fame  
Inductees honored**

**PTAE Readies Soldiers for  
Deployment While Staying  
Close to Home**

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## On the Cover

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## Warrant Officer News

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Halloween and I hope you were able to thank a veteran for their service during Veterans Day and thank you all for your service. Now that you are done eating the left over Halloween candy, Thanksgiving and Christmas is just around the corner, so remember to continue to exercise during the winter because it is easy to gain a few pounds during the holidays. It's a lot easier to maintain than starting an exercise program all over again.

This past October, the Senior Warrant Officer Advisory Council was formed. This council is designed to provide input through the Command Chief Warrant Officer to the Adjutant General and command group on issues and policies relating to the recruiting, assignment, utilization, promotion and retention of warrant officers.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Warrant Officer Advisory Council which consists of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Indulis Dambro (legal), Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandra Lashley (Administration), Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rosanna Morrow (Administration), Chief Warrant Officer 5 Terry Patton (Maintenance), Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ron Reed (Maintenance), Chief Warrant Officer 5 Keith Rogers (Ordinance/Logistics), Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Shafer (Logistics), Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Smith (Aviation), Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wayne Spry (Aviation), Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune (Safety/Aviation), and myself (Artillery).

Any other career field that is not represented by a council will be represented by me. As a minimum the council will meet at least twice a year. The advisory council will meet this month to discuss issues that were presented to the Warrant Officer Senior Leaders conference that was held at the National Guard Bureau as well as a new warrant officer mentorship program. If any warrant has issues or concerns in your branch, please bring it up to your council member or me and we will address the matter during the advisory council meeting.

The Kansas Warrant Officer Corp is still about 30 warrants short in the branches of the field artillery, aviation, armament, and supply. These branches are



**Command Chief  
Warrant Officer  
Chief Warrant  
Officer 4  
Hector Vasquez**

the MOS's that have at least two openings. If you are interested in becoming a warrant officer, now is the time to complete the pre-determination packet. There was an Officer, Warrant Officer and ROTC Symposium on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Nov. in Salina at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Building 365 (auditorium) from 09:30 – 16:00. The next KSRTI Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) begins in Feb. Anyone interested in becoming a Warrant Officer can contact CW4 Michael Smith (Sr TAC) KSRTI, Warrant Officer recruiter CW2 Jack Hancock or myself.

I would like to congratulate our newest warrant officer, Michael Meisenhelter. Michael graduated at Fort Rucker on August 18, 2010. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Sackrider attended Michael's

graduation and pinned him during his ceremony. Meisenhelter is a 251A Information System Technician for the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. We wish Michael the best of luck.

The Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina is hiring an ADOS position for TAC Officer/Instructor as well as assisting the RTI operational/accreditation support. The position is for 365 days and the rank for the position is chief warrant officer 2-4. Anyone interested in the position can contact me or Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith.

Don't forget to check out the Warrant Officer web page at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp>. There is warrant officer information posted on this site concerning MOS changes, updates, pre-determination packet and new regulations. If you have any information that you think would benefit the Warrant Officer Corp please submit your info to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandra Lashley.

If you know of any warrant officer News or events that you would like for me to place in the Sentinel such as promotions, graduations, retirements, or changes that affects warrant officers please send them to me and I will add them.

**Find the 105th MPAD on FaceBook!**

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Topeka-KS/105th-MPAD/163146507057526>



# Do you have what it takes for the

Story and photos by  
Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

The 15th Annual Adjutant General's Army Physical Fitness competition and National Guard Fitness Challenge was held in October at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kan. The event was hosted by the Modular Training Battalion of the 235th Regiment.

Nearly 250 military and civilian competitors took part, the most the competition ever hosted.

This year, the event was opened up to a wider range of competitors. High school teams from Wichita South, Wichita, Kan., St. John's Military Academy, Salina, Kan., and El Saline High School, Salina, Kan., competed along with civilians and Soldiers of all age groups.

Participants were scored according to the Army Physical Fitness Test age classifications and standards. The participants were briefed on the three events: push-ups, sit-ups and the two-mile run. Participants were also

**See PT CHALLENGE,  
Page 5**

# Adjutant General's Annual Physical Training Challenge?

***Inset:** Col. Eric Peck, Joint Chief of Staff for the Kansas Army National Guard, races to the finish line in the two-mile run. Peck 'maxed out' on all categories of the PT Challenge, scoring 368 points, his final score. He earned the Top Military Individual in the competition.*



# Good scores for the team

*Inset: Teammates, (from left) Lt. Col. Jon Shafer and Lt. Col. Rob Thompson, give each other the 'high five' for a good team run.*

## From PT CHALLENGE, Page 4

given demonstrations of the push-ups and sit-ups.

The military team competition was close again this year with only 25 points separating the first and second place teams. The first place team, 35th Infantry Division, consisted of Lt. Col. Dave Johnson, Lt. Col. Jon Shafer, Lt. Col. Rob Thompson and Maj. Michelle Hannah. Their combined score was 1,175 out of a possible 1,200 points.

The second place team had a combined score of 1,150 and came from Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery (1-161 FA).

Team members were Maj. Kyle Chansler, Maj. Michael McCoy, Sgt. Hector Medina and Spc. Dustin Hicks.

The third place team from the Regional Training Site Maintenance included Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Campbell, Master Sgt. John Duerr, Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Russell and Sgt. 1st Class Nick Eller. Their combined score was 1,099.

Batteries A and B, 1-161 FA Battalion also competed.

Individual military competitors were Col. Eric Peck, Staff Sgt. David Kllies, Sgt. Donald Dickey, Spc. Casy Pennock, Spc. Robert Cannon, Staff Sgt. Jamie Vilfer, Sgt. Mathew Segroves, Spc. Allan Earles,

See PT CHALLENGE, Page 6



## From PT CHALLENGE, Page 5

Steven McBryde, Spc. Jeremy Leach, Spc. Nathan Esfeld, Sgt. Joshua Hulse and Sgt. Shawn Collins.

The competition was all in good sport, but still intense between the units. The winning team captain, Lt. Col. Dave Johnson, said his team owed part of their win to the fact that the 35th Infantry Division has many people that could try out for the team.

“We had a larger pool of athletes to choose from than some of the smaller units,” he said. “So that definitely helped us, but what helped us the most was that we came last year and competed, so we knew what to expect and prepare for.”

“I think this competition has definitely improved from last year,” says teammate Lt. Col. Jon Shafer. “The amount of people that participated was like, ten-fold more than last year, and it’s great that we are including civilian and school teams, as well as individual participation. It builds great team spirit and lets the civilian population learn more about their Kansas Army National Guard.”

Lt. Col. Rob Thompson says the hardest event for the team was the two-mile run. “The heat took a toll on all the runners,” he said, referring to the unusually warm October day. “But all in all, it was a great competition, we did well on the push-up and sit-up events, and look forward to coming back next year to defend our title.”

Maj. Michelle Hannah was the new person for the team. It was her first time in this competition, and she was the anchor for the team’s two-mile run.

“Overall,” she said, “the spirits of the event was really cool and having the kids out there was really



*(above, from left) 35th Infantry Division team winners Maj. Michelle Hannah, Lt. Col Rob Thompson, Lt. Col. Jon Shafer and Lt. Col. Dave Johnson were awarded the coveted Adjutant General’s Winner’s Trophy by Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, for their winning overall score of 1175 points.*

great. Everyone worked really hard and did their best, this was a great thing to experience.”

**See PT CHALLENGE, Page 7**



*Civilian individual and team competition brought out nearly 60 competitors. (Above left) Klaus Mullen attempts one more push up before his two-minute time elapses. (Above right) Jacob Ellis grits his teeth and attempts another sit-up before muscle fatigue sets in.*



## From PT CHALLENGE, Page 6

The military individual competitor medalists were:

- Ages 17-21: Spc. Casy Pennock – 212
- Ages 22-26: Spc. Allan Earles – 253; Sgt. Steven McBryde – 245; Spc. Jeremy Leach – 236
- Ages 27-31: Spc. Robert Cannon – 186
- Ages 32-36: Sgt. Mathew Segroves
- Ages 37-41: Sgt. Donald Dickey – 226; Staff Sgt. Jamie Vilfer – 185
- Ages 42-46: Staff Sgt. David Klies – 230
- Ages 52-56: Col. Eric Peck – 368 (300 points maximum)

The top overall individual military score was earned by Col. Eric Peck with a perfect score of 300 points.

**See PT CHALLENGE, Page 8**



**(above photo)** Sixth grade St. John's Military Academy student Reece Turner (11), the son of Shirley Turner of McKinnley, Texas, never met a general before, and has lots of questions for the Great Plains Joint Training Center commander, Brig. Gen. Norman Steen on what duties and responsibilities a general has for the Soldiers and how to motivate them.



**(above photo)** St. John's Military Academy student Kole Stoltz strains near the end of his sit-ups, but **(lower photo)** civilian competitor Debbie Sellers cranks out her max with little effort. **(right photo)** Lt. Col. Doug Hinkley gives his 10th grade son, Hunter (15) of Pueblo West High School, Pueblo, Colo., some last minute advice. Hunter says he did 'all right' with his scores of 31 push ups, 59 sit ups and a run time of 18:06 on the two-mile, but wants to improve for the next year's competition.





## From PT CHALLENGE, Page 7

Since an important part of the challenge was open to civilian individual and team competition, more than 200 of the competitors were from the civilian walk of life.

St. John's Military Academy swept the civilian team competition. The first place team, with 983 points was comprised of students Tommy Ashe, Steve Ritter, Shawn Russell and Trevor Hanson.

The second place team with 758 points was comprised of Queton Schur, Daniel Weisman, Mr. Hetherington and Bryan Cerato.

The third place team with 665 points was composed of N. Erlechman, Jacob Ellis, D. Bertholomay and G. Hattan.

The top individual civilian competitor with the top overall score was Debbie Sellers with a perfect score of 300 points.

Other civilian competitor medalists were:

- Ages 17-21: Zachary Obad-Mathis –274; Ian Brands – 259; Anthony Benavides – 258 (All were

from St. John's Military Academy, Salina, Kan.)

- Ages 47-51: Robert Perez – 282
- Ages 52-56: Bob Frenzl – 295; Carol Graytok – 121
- Ages 57-31: Debbie Sellers – 300

Host sponsor commander was 235th Regional Training Institute commander, Col. Robert Windham, who said the event is planned to grow bigger every year to become a highlight event in Kansas.

"This competition not only spreads the good word on what the Kansas Army National Guard has to offer, but exposes the Soldiers and civilian participants to our other sponsors and lets them gain an understanding of them, too," said Windham.

The event was sponsored by the Enlisted Association of the Kansas National Guard, University of Phoenix, Grantham University, 99KG Radio, Western Associates, the Salina Journal and the Salina Airport Authority.

But the exposure is not the only benefit of the event says Sgt. 1st Class Lary Patrick, the event coordinator.

"We want these civilians, and especially the kids, to rub shoulders with the Soldiers—to let them see that we are normal people ensuring a safe world for them and that we are just common 'Joes' just like them and their families.

"The bonus is that they all learn that physical fitness should be a good part of your life," he continued, "and I think they all saw this. I can hardly wait for the word of mouth to get out about this event, we expect bigger and better participation."



*(above) St. John's Military Academy students familiarize themselves with some of the Kansas Army National Guard weaponry. Also on display were pieces of heavy equipment, Salina Airport and Salina Fire Department equipment, and a live radio feed from 99KG Radio.*

*(right) Conducting the event took great planning and coordinated execution. Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers supervised each participant that wanted to compete, ensuring a fair and balanced competition was held. One evaluator, Sgt. Michael Gatra, said it was a challenge to evaluate some of the students, because of their differences in size and ages, but the evaluations were successful.*





# What is your PT Challenge?



Running a marathon is something that many think about, but few actually do. For Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) (**above left**) his physical training (PT) challenge was to see if he could actually accomplish the whole marathon.

"This is something I've always wanted to do, and now I can do it, even on my 41st birthday," he said. He finished with an official time of six hours and eight minutes for the 26.2 miles.

For Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Baker (**above, middle**), from the 35th Infantry Division, and Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Wier (**above right**), of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 287th Special Troop Battalion, their PT challenge was to compete in the Race Against Breast Cancer.

Baker competes because the sister of her best friend has breast cancer and Baker sees how this disease affects entire families and wants to do something about it. So she suited up and completed the five-kilometer run in September in Topeka.

Wier runs to help the cause, too. She competed in the September Wichita event. "I've had friends that have succumbed to breast cancer, and I want to do anything I can to help them find the cure," she said.

Maj. Mike Wallace of the 105th MPAD (**right**) likes to hike in challenging areas. He recently hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back to the top. It took 12 hours to do and was exhausting.

"The steepness, high altitude, dry and hot environment is really challenging," he said about the 20-mile hike that lasted throughout the day and into the night.





# Race Against Breast Cancer

## A Soldier and his family take on this killer

Story and photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Numerous Soldiers ran in charity events this fall to help the scientific community find a cure for a serious disease that affects men and women—breast cancer.

Many of the Soldiers involved their families in these events to help raise money for the research needed to find the cure. One such family was that of Lt. Col. Mike Erwin's.

Erwin, the director of personnel, kicked off two weeks of involvement with The 19th-Annual 5K Run/Walk for the *Race Against Breast Cancer* held at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan., in September. More than 540 runners and walkers of all ages registered and participated in the special charity event.

Erwin has a friend that has had breast cancer and, as the father of five daughters and numerous granddaughters, he is aware of the risks being higher for women than men to be afflicted with this terrible disease. Since running is a way of life for Erwin, he wanted to put his running to good use.

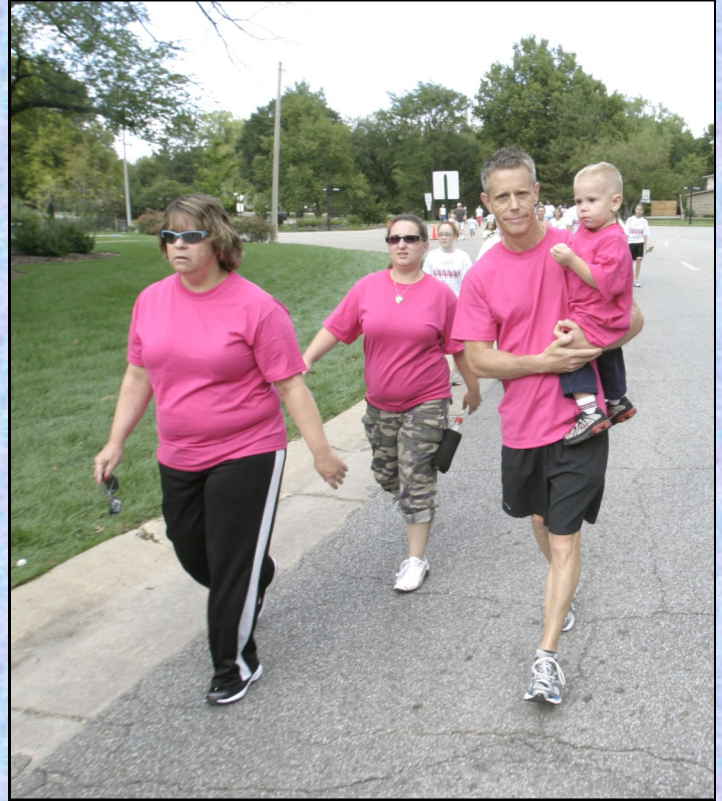
"I like to run every day, at least 5-10 kilometers," said Erwin. "I thought, if I could raise money for a good cause, then I should do that—dedicate my time and energy into helping others beat the prevalence and devastating impact of this disease."

Erwin qualified as one of the top three runners for his age group, but his run in Topeka didn't finish his goal—it just increased it.

Two weeks later, the *Race Against Breast Cancer* was conducted in Wichita, Kan., where more than 20,000 participants joined in the run, and where Erwin had his mom, dad, daughters, grandchildren, and anyone else related to him join him after his morning 5-kilometer run where he won first place in the 45-49 age bracket with a time of 20:03. They all participated in the '5-K fun walk'.

Darrel and Shirley Erwin, Erwin's parents, were excited to begin their first time at the event.

"This race is great," said Shirley. "The crowd is unbelievable and even though it's crowded, I think there could be more people involved with such a good cause."



(Above photo, from left) Diann and Manda Wentworth walks with Lt. Col. Mike Erwin during his second 5K event of the day as he carries his grandson, Ayden Schmitz.

Erwin's father said he was excited, but not surprised at the event. "Mike's always had a good heart, and is always trying to help others, I'm not surprised he'd get involved in something like this—I'm just glad our family is close enough that we can all support him," he said.

Erwin's sister, Diann Wentworth, said during the walk that she was having a good time with everyone out at the event. "My daughters and I had a good time completing this walk, and I'm glad my brother, Mike, talked us into doing it. I will begin looking for the next one soon," she said.

Three of Erwin's daughters commented on the day. His daughter Laura said, "I don't understand why my dad has to run every day, but I'm proud that he is putting his running to good use in helping others," she said.

**See RUN AGAINST CANCER, Page 11**





**(Above photo, from left)** The Erwin family that participated in the Wichita event, and their relationship to Lt. Col. Erwin. Manda Wentworth (niece); Ayden Schmitz (grandson); Lexi Erwin (daughter); Diann Wentworth (sister); Hollie Rohmeyer-Wentworth (niece); Brooklyn Schmitz (granddaughter); Laura Schmitz (daughter); Lisa Bishop (daughter); Angela Bishop (granddaughter); Lindsey Bell (daughter-in-law); Stacey Erwin (daughter); Makason Bell (grandson); Quentin Miller (grandson); Shirley Erwin (mother); Darrel Erwin (father); Jesse Wentworth (great-nephew) Ashley Hill (niece) and Lt. Col. Mike Erwin. **(Left photo)** Erwin runs at the head of the pack during the Topeka event where he placed as one of the top three runners.



### From RUN AGAINST CANCER, Page 10

His daughter Stacy said, “Dad has always tried to set a good example for all of us, I think this is just an extension of that.”

While his other daughter, Lisa commented, “Dad hounded us to do a 5-K with him. Last year we watched but I am glad he didn’t give up on us and we got involved.”

As the family ended the day’s events, they sauntered back to the finish line as a group, with the many of the adults carrying the children. Erwin laughed and said, “they’re really tired now, but I know that they all will feel better when they get rested up. They’ll feel better here,” he said, tapping his chest over his heart, “because they’ve now become part of the cure for this terrible affliction to humanity.”

The *Race Against Breast Cancer* began in 1991 in an effort by communities in and throughout the state to confront breast cancer. Today, the 5K Run/Walk for the *Race Against Breast Cancer* continues to help raise funds for mammograms and to promote early detection awareness for individuals living in Northeast Kansas communities.





*Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Newton takes the Sergeant's Major Sword from Maj. Gen. John E. Davoren, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division commanding general, during the 35<sup>th</sup> ID's change of responsibility ceremony Sunday, Oct. 17th. Newton is replacing Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Taylor who is retiring after 39 years of military service.*

## Newton Takes Responsibility for 35th ID

*Story and photos by Sgt. Heather Wright,  
35<sup>th</sup> ID Public Affairs Journalist*

The 35th Infantry Division (ID) witnessed its second change of leadership in two months when Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Newton took charge of the 35th Infantry Division from Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Taylor in a change of responsibility ceremony Sunday, Oct. 17th.

"It's truly an honor to be with a division with such an extensive lineage – dating back to WWI. The division is unique – it's always represented the Midwest. I'm proud to become the senior NCO of the 35th," said Newton.

Newton brings a wide range of knowledge to the Division. He's worked with maneuvers, fire support, logistics, the three components of war-fighter skills and has four years of 35<sup>th</sup> ID staff experience. Fresh from a deployment to Iraq with the 287<sup>th</sup> Sustainment

Brigade, Newton also brings hands-on experience with operations in a war zone.

"Soldier care was the best thing about deployment for me," said Newton. "The time I spent visiting Soldiers throughout the battlefield and caravans - getting to know them, their different backgrounds and offering support - was the highlight of my time in Iraq."

"I'd like to recognize and thank Sgt. Maj. Taylor for his service and his legacy of being and promoting the Army Values, and, more importantly – taking care of Soldiers," said Newton.

Taylor said his farewells and praised the 35<sup>th</sup> ID Soldiers. "Sgt. Maj. Newton, I'm giving you the best enlisted, noncommissioned officers and staff in the Army," Taylor said.

**See NEWTON, Page 13**





**(above photo)** Maj. Gen. John Davoren, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Commanding General, awards Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Taylor, 35<sup>th</sup> ID, the Legion of Merit Medal during the 35<sup>th</sup> ID's change of responsibility ceremony Sunday, Oct. 17. Taylor is retiring after 39 years of military service.



**(left photo)** A 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Soldier presents Mrs. Janice Newton, wife of incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Newton a bouquet of roses during the 35<sup>th</sup> ID's change of responsibility ceremony. Newton is replacing Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Taylor.

## From NEWTON, Page 12

'It's been an honor and a privilege to serve with the professional enlisted and officers of the 35<sup>th</sup>.

Newton entered the United States Army in January 1985 and attended Basic and Advanced training at Fort Knox as an armored crewman. Upon completion of training at Fort Knox, he was assigned as a tank driver for 3-34 Armor, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division in Erlangen, Germany. Newton was later reassigned as a tank gunner with Company D, 3-37 Armor, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in Fort Riley, Kan.

In 1991, Newton was honorably discharged from active duty and enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard. His duty assignments include tank commander Company D, 1st Battalion, 635<sup>th</sup> Armor; platoon sergeant, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 635<sup>th</sup> Armor; 1st Sgt., Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery; senior MOS-Q instructor with the 235<sup>th</sup> Regiment; FSE Operation Sergeant Major, 35<sup>th</sup> ID Artillery, FECC operation sergeant major with the 35<sup>th</sup> ID; command sergeant major with the 1st Battalion, 635<sup>th</sup> Armor; and command sergeant major with the 287<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade.

Newton's military awards include the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, South West Asia Service Medal with two campaign stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with one campaign star and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Newton is a multiple graduate of Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Masters of Science, Elementary Education and Masters of Science, Administration and Leadership. On the civilian side, he's a school principal with USD 469.



# *PTAE prepares Soldiers for deployment*

## **Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Evaluation team allows Guardsmen to remain close to home for pre-deployment**

*By Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher, 105th MPAD*

Localism is a word often associated with regional media and farmers markets. The term reverts back to a time when people shopped where they lived, and everyone knew their butcher. Recently, military training has been added to that list.

Headquartered at the Kansas Regional Training Institute (KSRTI) in Salina, Kan., the Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Evaluation (PTAE) team was created to serve strictly Kansas National Guard Units with preparing for deployments.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, the non-commissioned officer in-charge (NCOIC) for PTAE, helped start the program with the goal of reducing the time units spend mobilizing.

The pre-mob training PTAE will coincide with the deploying unit's mobilization training only with smaller class sizes. It prepares Soldiers by providing them experience in individual battle drills, required tasks, leader requirements, theater-specific tasks and collective training taught by experienced combat veterans.

"Our staff at PTAE teach, coach, and mentor deploying units and conduct as much mobilization training as required to deploy to Afghanistan, Iraq, Africa, Kosovo, the Sinai and anywhere else," said Moberly.

**See PTAE, Page 15**

*Photo by Sgt. Jackie Kamiru,  
778th CBT HETT*



## From PTAE, Page 14

The benefits that result from PTAE are significant.

According to Moberly, the more Soldiers complete during pre-mob, the less time Soldiers have to spend at the mob training center. This results in longer boots-on-ground time in theater for the unit, and more time for them to be able to accomplish their mission.

Virtual convoy trainers, vehicle roll-over training simulators and fire simulators are just a few of the many types of equipment on-hand to help ready deploying Soldiers.

“We’ve got pretty much everything that a Soldier needs,” said Moberly.

Quick training isn’t the only reason for PTAE. It’s small class sizes and optimum time training in every area has shown a reduction in casualty rates since its birth in 2007.

“One of the proudest things about us is we have successfully deployed over 3,000 Kansas National Guard Soldiers through PTAE now with only one Soldier killed in action,” said Moberly. “Our casualty rates were significantly higher before we stood up PTAE.”

PTAE’s localism stimulates the local economy, raises the morale of Soldiers and helps prevent unnecessary casualties in combat.

Just like for the farmer’s market – local is better.

*Learn more about PTAE—  
how it effects Soldiers, Families,  
training and deployment readiness!*

**Q & A with CSM Moberly on the next page**



*Spc Christopher Bailes, Staff Sgt. Daniel Haines, Sgt. Jeremy Johannson and Spc. Tiara Turner make their way across a field during land navigation at Salina, Kan.*

Photo by Sgt. Charles Malloy,  
778th CBT HETT



*A Soldier of the 778th Combat Heavy Equipment Transportation Company fires a 240-B machine gun from the turret of a HMMVE during training at the KSRTI, Salina, Kan., as part of the PTAE team.*

Photo by Spc Jackie Kamiru,  
778th CBT HETT



*Spc Christopher Bailes checks his direction during land navigation training at the KSRTI, Salina, Kan., as part of PTAE team.*

Photo by Sgt. Charles Malloy,  
778th CBT HETT





*Soldiers with the 778th Combat Heavy Equipment Transportation Company practice room clearing while training at the KSRTI in Salina, Kan., as part of the PTAE team.*

Photo by Spc. Jackie Kamiru,  
778th CBT HETT



*Sgt Amber Batho and Spc Linna Boler from 778th Combat Heavy Equipment Transportation Company mix it up during combative training at the KSRTI, Salina, Kan., as part of the PTAE team.*

Photo by Sgt. Charles Malloy,  
778th CBT HETT

## Q & A With CSM Moberly



*A range sergeant for the PTAE team observes a Joint-Force Headquarters Soldier's performance while qualifying at the M-16 rifle zero range at the KSRTI, Salina, Kan.*

Photo by Pfc. Robert Havens,  
105th MPAD

trainees close to home. Also it reduces the amount of time they spend at mobilization center.

**Q: Why is it important to have a program like PTAE?**

**A:** Ensure that Soldiers and Airman have proper training, and also insight about the environment overseas from combat veterans that serve as instructors.

**Q: What are some of the results you've seen from implementing PTAE?**

**A:** Improved proficiency, weapons skills. Seen a reduction in the number of casualties.

**Q: Is there anything that you would to add for the general public to know about PTAE?**

**A:** We train Soldiers to the highest standard—not just checking the box. Our commitment to these Soldiers' Families is to give their loved ones the training to keep them safe while deployed. We practice muscle memory to prevent the complacency that often leads to injury.

**Q: What is the purpose of PTAE?**

**A:** Provide external evaluation for the Adjutant General with training Soldiers and Airmen for deployments.

**Q: How has it benefited Kansas Soldiers?**

**A:** It has increased quality of training and keeps



# New center opens in Salina

A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to celebrate the opening of a newly remodeled Kansas National Guard training facility named as the 92 Career Management Field National Training Center, was held at the Salina Airport Industrial Center in September.

"The Salina Airport Authority has a long history of working with the National Guard," said Sgt. 1st Class Lary Patrick, 2-235th Military Training Battalion Readiness noncommissioned officer. "The Authority had a facility that was vacant and in close proximity to the rest of the Kansas Regional Training Institute campus. The Kansas National Guard is currently on a five-year lease of the facility which has been renovated into dedicated classrooms in order to conduct courses."

Military occupation specialty qualification will be conducted for

unit supply specialists, motor transport operators, health care specialists, Field Artillery Meteorology and Survey, Combat Lifesaver Course, Army Basic Instructor Course and Small Leader Course. The Kansas Regional Training Institute conducts additional training which graduates more than 1200 students annually.

Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Authority Manager of Facilities and Construction Kenny Bieker, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Dennis Lauver along with other local officials helped to cut the ribbon.

"This is another great day for the training center here," said Bunting. "I want to thank the Salina Chamber of Commerce, the Salina Airport Authority, the City of Salina, because with our partnership, we can do even more great things," bunting said.

Bunting identified the good work from two people in the Guard that greatly assisted this accomplishment for the Great Plains Joint Training Center. Commander, Brig. Gen. Norman Steen, and 235th Training Regiment commander, Col. Robert Windham were singled out by Bunting with the comment, "this is something that everyone can take pride in and we will be training a huge amount of Soldiers here, at this joint training center, They will come here and get real live joint training. Across a variety of training here, and specialty training," Bunting said.

Senior vice president and CEO of Salina area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Don Weiser said he's had the opportunity to travel and meet with other chamber execs in the nation and as he comes away from those talks, he sees that the talk about what is going on with area economies. "Theirs are very depressing," Weiser said. "Saline county actually gained with jobs and economic gains in the last year, and one of the reasons for that is the military as a whole, the partnership with Tim Rogers and Bunting and all the other departments that cooperate."



*(Above) Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, talks about how bright the future is for further training in Salina with the opening of the 92 Career Management Field National Training Center. He pointed out that through agency cooperation, all the developments in Salina have begun to build the town, and the Kansas Regional Training Institute, as a national asset.*

Photo and story by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD



# JAG holds legal conference at Washburn University

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Bill McGinnis,  
105th MPAD

Over 50 past and present members of the Kansas National Guard's Judge Advocate General's Corps, and civilians who practice military law, gathered together at the Washburn University School of Law, Oct. 2 and 3, for the 21st Annual Kansas National Guard 2010 Judge Advocate Legal Conference.

According to Lt. Col. Matthew Oleen, Command Judge Advocate, 635<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group, the conference was a success. "This is the 21<sup>st</sup> year we've hosted the Kansas National Guard Judge Advocate General's Corps Conference and this year we had our largest turn out ever. We had a great turnout, due largely to the efforts of Chief Dambro, who is scheduled to retire early next year after 40 years in the Army and 34 years in the JAG Corps."

"The conference provides 12 hours of continuing legal education (CLE) which every attorney in Kansas needs to stay licensed," said Oleen. "While the conference is focused on the needs of judge advocates and civilians who practice military law, it is open to all licensed attorneys."

During the conference, various specialists in their legal field of expertise were invited to speak on issues; such as ethics, current legal issues in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters of operations, Shari'a law, how America prosecutes unprivileged enemy belligerents accused of violating the Laws of War, cyber attacks, and other current legal issues.

The conference was not only about instruction. All participants were invited to a formal dinner at the Ramada Inn, in downtown Topeka, and social at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard to honor retired judge advocates as well as three former judge advocates received special recognition for their contributions to the KSNG JAG Corps. They were retired Brig. Gen., Jonathan Small, retired Col. Ed Wiegers, and retired Lt. Col. Randy



**Above:** Maj. Jared Maag, Staff Judge Advocate, 190<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Indy Dambro, Legal Administrator, Joint Forces Headquarters Land Component; and Lt. Col. Matthew Oleen, Command Judge Advocate 635<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group; stand together in front of the conference room. The three coordinated the Kansas National Guard 2010 Judge Advocate Legal Conference held at Washburn University School of Law, Oct. 2-3, 2010.

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The conference was put together by Major Jared Maag, Staff Judge Advocate, 190<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Indy Dambro, Legal Administrator, Joint Forces Headquarters Land Component; and Lt. Col. Matthew Oleen, Command Judge Advocate, 635<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group.



# Howell steps down, Leivan takes command

*Story and photo by Sgt. Beverly Fortner, 105th MPAD*

Capt. Lenard C. Leivan stepped into the position as the new commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD), Joint Force Headquarters Kansas (JFHQ-KS)-Land Component, during a change of command ceremony Nov. 6, in Topeka. Leivan succeeds outgoing commander Maj. Jeffrey Howell.

Both incoming commander, Leivan, and outgoing commander, Howell, had family members attending the event. Brig. Gen. Eric Peck of JFHQ was also in attendance.

Leivan, a native of Kansas, graduated from Plainville Rural High School in May 1988 and went on to complete his Bachelor of Arts in political science from Fort Hays State University in 1996. He is the son of Lenard Leivan (deceased) and Diana Marshall (Bos) of Osborne, Kan. Leivan, his wife, Michelle, and their son, Dillon, live in Topeka. Both were present for the change of command ceremony.

Leivan was direct commissioned in April 2000 and has served in various positions with 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery; 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery and the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery.

He has served as executive officer and commanders in those units. In his full-time position, Leivan serves as the assistant state training officer for the Director of Operations for the Kansas Army National Guard.

Howell had his wife Shelly and their two daughters, Megan and Ashlynn, attending the change of command ceremony. He was very proud to have his family there with him and was especially grateful that Peck could also be present. Howell commented on how important the guard family is, and mentioned one particular family crisis where the total support of his chain of command came through and had been there from day one in support his family's well being.

Howell graduated from Topeka West High School in May 1987 and completed his Bachelor of Science in general studies from Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y., in 2004. He is the son of Byron and Joan Howell of Topeka. Howell and his family live in Topeka as well.

Howell received his commission in August 1999 through the Officer Candidate School at the Kansas Regional Training Institute (KSRTI) in Salina, Kan.

He has been a signal officer, and has served with the 108th Aviation Regiment and been on deployments to Bosnia and Panama. He currently holds the position of chief of plans for the Network Enterprise Center at fort Riley, Kan.

Howell assumed the position of commander of HHD, JFHQ-KS, in March 2009 and after nineteen months as HHD's company commander, Howell relinquished his command to Leivan during the Change of Command ceremony.

Lt. Col. Dana Shopfner, JFHQ-KS battalion commander, and HHD 1st. Sgt. Randy Rice also took part in performing their roles in the change of command ceremony. The tradition and symbolic passing of the colors from Howell to Leivan marked the official change of command.

Though there were moments during Howell's farewell speech where he could not help but let his emotions come through, his final message was that he was forever thankful for such a great opportunity.

With Leivan on a path that brings him back to JFHQ, but not as that young sergeant in the armor battalion that drilled on this same armory floor, but as the new company commander of HHD, JFHQ-KS. Leivan is excited about this opportunity, to say the least. And so with the passing of the colors, a new commander, and the unit continues.



(above, from left) Maj. Jeffrey Howell, the outgoing commander, receives the unit colors from 1st Sgt. Randy Rice. Howell then passed the colors to battalion commander, Lt. Col. Dana Shopfner so she could pass the colors, and responsibility, to the incoming commander, Capt. Lenard C. Leivan.



# NEVER TOO LATE

## Female KSARNG Soldier receives CAB

Story by Spc. Jessica Zullig, 105th MPAD



(Front row, left to right) Spc. Cynthia Espinoza, Bronx, N.Y.; Staff Sgt. Ranie Ruthig, Wentworth, Kan.; (back row, left to right) Spc. Shannon Morgan, Mina, Ark.; and Spc. Michele Perry, Hampton, Va., are all members Team Lioness, a group of women who participate in joint military operations and raids with U.S. Marines.

Photo by Lloyd Francis, Army Times

Seven years ago, Staff Sgt. Ranie Ruthig, a Wentworth, Kan., native and then on active duty, was one of five females on an elite team called "Lioness Team" with the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, during Operation Iraqi Freedom I, Camp Junction City, Al Anbar Province. The females in the team were assigned to Army and Marine units without females.

"They needed us to go on 'knock and greet' missions to search female Iraqis while searching for caches in the area," said Ruthig, who deployed as a platoon sergeant for the motor pool and non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) for vehicle recovery.

During one "knock and greet" mission on April 10, 2004, right after the unsuccessful effort to take the city Fallujah, the simple search turned into a fight for the team's lives when her platoon received a call to provide support to a nearby platoon of Marines that were caught under fire.

"We began receiving fire," said Ruthig, a vehicle wheel mechanic. "The mission started at 3 a.m., and we didn't make it back to base until 5 p.m. that night. We

received RPGs (rocket propelled grenades) and grenades the whole way back."

After street-to-street and house-to-house fighting for roughly 15 hours, Ruthig was relieved to be back on base.

"I was glad to be back and get a shower," she said. "We had been on so many missions. We never knew what was going to happen and anything could happen."

Ruthig never thought about receiving her Combat Action Badge (CAB) until she decided to leave active duty and join the Kansas National Guard.

"The movie, *The Lioness*, came out, and my new command with the National Guard asked me, 'If you were there, why don't you have a CAB?'" said Ruthig, now an instructor and writer for the ordnance program for Regional Training Site Maintenance, 235th Regional Training Institute, Salina, Kan.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ron Reed, senior maintenance officer for Joint Forces Headquarters, Topeka, Kan., and Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Hall, from personnel, also for JFHQ, wouldn't let Ruthig give up on receiving the award she had earned seven years before in Iraq.

"I wasn't going to let her stop," said Reed. "She was deserving of it. The CAB is important because it recognizes people who have been in combat - under fire. "Lioness Team" were the first five females documented in combat fighting. It comes down to Soldier care. It's our responsibility as leaders to make sure Soldiers receive what they are deserving of - whether it's a promotion, vacation or award."

The process of awarding Ruthig a CAB took an extended period of time because in 2004, there wasn't a CAB. Reed heard from his battalion commander that he could award it retroactively, but when submitted, the request kept being kicked back. More information and detail was required in order to award Ruthig the CAB because of the amount of time had passed.

"Chief (Reed) and Sgt. Maj. (Hall) were on a battle to collect more statements and more information. I wanted to give up so many times," said Ruthig. "I didn't think it was a big deal, but it really is."

Ruthig was pinned with her CAB on Oct. 23, 2010, by Reed and feels it is the closing of the book of her deployment.

"It's a relief to get it and know now the right steps of how to receive it in the future," she said. "Not many National Guard females have a CAB - it's more of a thing you see with active duty."

She thanks Reed and Hall for taking the extra steps to help her receive her award.

"They kept telling me I couldn't give up," she said. "They really pushed to get me it. They kept reminding me I deserved it."



# NEWS FLASH!

Stories from units across Kansas

## You think you know all about Veteran's Day, but do you?

By Staff Sgt. Curtis Brown, UPAR

Kansas National Guard Soldiers joined their fellow citizens in honoring those who have served in the military. Soldiers, Sailors, and their family members all understand the sacrifices made by Veterans during their terms of service, but what do people really know about how Veterans' Day began? The answer may surprise many of their fellow citizens and soldiers. The Soldiers of Company D 2<sup>nd</sup> Combined Arms Battalion, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment know the answer is close to their home, home station that is. Company D 2/137<sup>th</sup> IN is located in the Emporia Armory.

Alvin King, and the Emporia Chamber of Commerce, in 1953 began a movement to change the official recognition of Armistice Day, the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month o been recognized to honor those who served during World War I, to Veterans' Day in an effort to honor the service of Veterans of all conflicts. Mr. King's efforts to recognize Veterans was assisted by Congressman Ed Rees, the Kansas Representative from Emporia, who worked with supporters on the House of Representatives Bill 7786 (HR7786). Veterans' Day was officially a day of recognition when President Dwight D. Eisenhower, from Abilene, Kansas signed HR7786. The City of Emporia held its first Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 1953.

Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers stationed at the Emporia Armory have continued to participate in the parade since the first one. Company D and the 2/137<sup>th</sup> CAB is currently deployed supporting the Joint Task Force in the Horn of Africa or preparing for deployment to Afghanistan, but the Soldiers from Company D Rear Detachment ensured that Company D was represented in the parade despite being currently attached to Company B in Wichita. Two D Company soldiers, Staff Sgt. Curtis Brown of Topeka, and Pvt. Chris Cates of Salina, came together with 1st Sgt. Steve Harmon to participate in the Veterans' Day Parade.

Many Soldiers usually think of Veterans' Day as a day off work, but these two Soldiers drove to Emporia to represent their company in the oldest Veterans' Day Parade. Pvt. Cates provided the following explanation,



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"Emporia is our home, the community has been there for us, and even though D Company is not actively drilling here, it's our home, and we haven't forgotten them, and they have always shown us their support for us. This is the least we could do." Harmon, who works for Flint Hills Technical School in Emporia was asked by the Boy Scouts Troop 156 and Cub Scout Pack 156 whose members rode with the Soldiers in the parade waving flags out of the three HMMWVs driven down Commerce Street the traditional parade route for Emporia.

"The Kansas National Guard serves a national and state mission. The state mission is helped by building the relationship with our home communities. When Kansans have the chance to meet the people who are the Guard during a time of celebration and remembrance helps build the trust that is needed for the Guard to succeed in times of crisis or deployment," explained Brown. The Emporians demonstrated their relationship and pride in "their" Guardsmen with applause, smiles, and waves to the D Company HMMWVs as they turned onto the parade route.

Tradition is important to the Soldiers and Airmen of the Kansas National Guard and the communities they serve. The Soldiers, and units, will continue to support Kansas Communities like Emporia regardless of where their missions send them.

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*By Sgt. Jason Lee, UPAR*

Soldiers from the 170th Maintenance Company participated in an Improvised Explosive Device reaction class and lane training exercise at the armory in Colby Sept. 11-12.

The Soldiers went through a three-phase training series that included a power point instructional class given by Staff Sgt. Troy Rall and Sgt. Jason Lee. After the instructional class, the Soldiers went through a drill using a miniature mock build-up of the area where they were going to encounter IEDs. Sgt. John Quintal, Sgt. Steven Struber and Staff Sgt. Robert

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## FMS 7 receives top ranking from National Guard Bureau

*By Sgt. 1st Class Quentin McBride*

Field Maintenance Shop 7, located in Kansas City, Kan., has taken first place at the National Guard Bureau in the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence competition. Fourteen facilities from 54 states and territories competed in the Table of Distribution and Allowances Small category with FMS 7 coming out on top.

This shop is one of 14 Army National Guard Maintenance facilities located throughout the state of Kansas. It operates under the Directorate of Logistics and Surface

Maintenance Management Office located in Topeka, Kan.

The Army Award for Maintenance Excellence award winner displays an expertise and professionalism in performing their tasks. Each competing unit is evaluated on its effectiveness in ensuring that Soldier competency is maintained. Assessments of each unit in the categories of attitude and effective leadership are rated with a benchmark based on those of past winners. The tenets of exceptional maintenance processes that were exhibited are validated and ranked.

All entries must be ranked as one of the top three in several different competitive levels prior to reaching the National Guard Bureau. Each competitor starts at their state level, where first and second place move on to regional competition. The top three finishers from each of the seven Regions move on to the National Guard Bureau competition. From there the National Guard Bureau can send up to six entries per category to round one in the Department of the Army. These four levels of competition are based on the written packet submitted by each organization. The Department of the Army, round two is comprised of the top four placements from round one. This group will receive a site visit from Department of the Army representatives who will inspect and validate the information contained in the packets. All scores will be added up and a winner and runner-up will be decided in each category.

In the 2010 Army Award for Maintenance Excellence

## 170th Maintenance Company practices IED reaction lanes

*By Sgt. Jason Lee, UPAR*

Soldiers from the 170th Maintenance Company participated in an Improvised Explosive Device reaction class and lane training exercise at the armory in Colby Sept. 11-12.

The Soldiers went through a three-phase training series that included a power point instructional class given by Staff Sgt. Troy Rall and Sgt. Jason Lee. After the instructional class, the Soldiers went through a drill using a miniature mock build-up of the area where they were going to encounter IEDs. Sgt. John Quintal, Sgt. Steven Struber and Staff Sgt. Robert Griffiths built the miniature setup and taught the class how the convoy would be set up during the final phase of the training.

The final phase of training was a simulated IED lane conducted by Sgt. 1st Class Rick Christie, Sgt. Warren Rogers, Sgt. Don Little, Sgt. Terrance Burgess and Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Beougher.

"This training is important. Every Soldier should know how to react when they encounter a suspected IED," said Struber. "I was impressed with how everyone joined in and participated during the training."

During the final phase of training, the 170th used humvees with four man crews to navigate through a simulated IED reaction lane. The Soldiers in charge of the lane set up hidden IEDs and rated how well the Soldiers found the devices and what they did when they discovered possible IEDs. The Soldiers going through the training were tasked with finding as many IEDs as possible and giving descriptions of the suspected devices to higher headquarters over the radio. Once they completed the call, they were instructed on what to do next.

"I think that this part of the training really put it all together," said Little, who gave the instructions. "We had the Soldiers do a couple of runs and constantly changed the course so they wouldn't expect the same thing twice. We had a lot of fun setting up the course and I think they got a lot of good training."

The Soldiers were given an IED class on Sunday to supplement the IED reaction classes they took during the drill weekend.

"This training is good for everyone," said Capt. Todd Stuke, 170th commander. "By having this training, we can give a refresher course to those who have deployed and, for those who have not, this is good training for them to go through."

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## Helicopter crew take to skies for live-fire practice

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, UPAR



7.62 mm rounds erupt from the business end of an M240H medium machine gun mounted on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, Kansas National Guard, during live-fire practice at Smoky Hill Range near Salina.

Photo by Sgt. Michael Mathewson, UPAR

On the weekend of Sept. 10 to 12, the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation conducted live-fire aerial gunnery at the Smoky Hill Range near Salina. Each gunner flew several runs on the range. This included runs while wearing protective masks and after dark, night vision goggles. Targets were engaged from a hover and airspeeds of up to 100 miles per hour.

Sgt. 1st Class Derron Lindsey, battalion standardization instructor, explained the difficulties of firing from a moving aircraft.

"The crew chief has to understand ballistics, aerodynamics and target identification and distance estimation," he said. "Where a ground-based gunner has a stable platform, an aerial gunner has to adjust for wind speed, movement and air flow over the airframe. You often hear them reminding themselves or in other conversations, aim high on the right; low in the left."

The M240H machine gun is the aircraft version of the ground mounted M240B. On the H model, the pistol grip of the B model is replaced with a butterfly trigger and hand grips similar to an M2 .50 caliber machine gun.

"The M240Hs are intended to be defensive rather than offensive weapons," said Staff Sgt. Tom Baker, one of the evaluators for the gunnery.

"I had a blast doing aerial gunnery," said Spc. Darren Love. "As far as the firing went, it was difficult trying to load the weapon under pressure while in a moving aircraft, especially under NVG (night vision goggles). I also had quite a few weapon jams once we started night firing."

"Just going through that experience taught me a lot and gave me confidence in working with the weapon," he continued. "It was also good to be able to practice the different techniques I had been shown to see which ones worked better for me."

"Aerial gunnery was a great experience, especially for a 19-year-old crew chief," agreed Pfc. Gregg Smith. "Engaging targets in a UH-60 at over 100 knots was an exhilarating experience."

"Having practice of being under the added stress of handling the weapon while inside the aircraft is something we all need," said Pfc. Lee Purdham. "The practice allows us to be more comfortable under normal conditions. It gave me a whole new appreciation of the job and responsibilities entrusted to me while sitting in that seat."

Purdham's father, 1st Sgt. Paul Purdham, a member of the Kansas Army National Guard, is deployed to Africa.

Newly promoted Sgt. 1st Class Justin Kaub said, "As a flight instructor, we have to ensure that we train to standard. On occasion, the Soldiers make mistakes and we have to correct them on the spot. Loading, clearing and correcting malfunctions are often simple tasks that we forget. Gunnery allows us to also train and correct communication errors."

"Each crewmember is given over 8 hours of instruction just on the M240H, aircraft emergency procedures and the duties of a door gunner," said Lindsey. "They are also required to pass a 50 question exam and be evaluated during each table of fire throughout the year."

Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Whitley, 69th Troop Command's command sergeant major, flew on one of the gunnery flights. Whitley stated that he was very impressed with the range itself and the professionalism of everyone on the range. The pilots, crew chiefs/gunners, ammo handlers, medics, fuel handlers, the controllers in the tower and everyone else that made everything happen.

Lt. Col. David Leger, battalion commander, said the battalion was fortunate to have access to such a fine range on which to conduct gunnery. Leger also

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expressed his pride on the way that every member of the battalion worked to make the range so safe and successful.

## 778th a "family business"

By Sgt. Charles Malloy, UPAR



(Above) Staff Sgt. Arthur Miller (rear), his twin sons Spc. Chase and Spc. Chance Miller, and stepson Pfc. David Bleakley

Photo by Sgt. Charles Malloy, UPAR

They say the National Guard is one big family. In the 778th Transportation Company, they really believe that statement.

Staff Sgt. Arthur Miller and his twin sons, Spc. Chance Miller and Spc. Chase Miller, and stepson Pfc. Thomas Bleakley, are all members of the 778th. What's more, they are all deploying together to Iraq.

"I think if we have to deploy, it is best to be together," said Staff Sgt. Miller. "We can watch each other and have a common bond. It would bring us closer together and I am proud of all of them."

"Their moms are both proud of them and, at the same time, they are nervous about the whole deployment thing," he continued, "but because we are all together it makes them more comfortable with it all."

"I think it's pretty cool having my dad and brother deploy with me to Iraq," said Chase. "It's like I'm taking a piece of home with me."

"I feel more confident in myself knowing that they are there with me to help out through the rough patches," said Bleakley.

Chance and Chase are in maintenance under the leadership of Sgt. 1st Class Casey Flinn.

"It's really interesting having the twins in this

platoon," said Flinn. "You really need to stay on your toes with those two, and the fact that they are twins, they almost feel what the other is feeling."

The Millers aren't the only family serving in the 778th. Staff Sgt. Daniel Davis and his brother, Pfc. Charles Davis, currently serve together and Staff Sgt. Edward Lee Lewis and Sgt. Benjamin Lewis are both in the 778th, although Ed won't be deploying with the company.

## Family Readiness Group receives donation

The Bourbon and Cherokee Sheriff Departments each made a \$1,000 donation to the 891<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion Family Readiness Group on Tuesday, Oct. 12. The presentation took place at the Iola Kansas National Guard armory. The 891<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion is headquartered in Iola.

Lt. Col. Roger Murdock, commander of the 891<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, accepted the donations on behalf of the Kansas National Guard and the battalion.

"As much as any military training, the support we receive from our Family Readiness Group and our communities are vital to the welfare and morale of our Kansas National Guardsmen, particularly when they are deployed," said Murdock.

"These generous donations by the Bourbon County Sheriff's Department and Cherokee County Sheriff's Department are greatly appreciated and will go a long way to enhancing the programs of our Family Readiness Group."

The money was raised during the third annual Law Enforcement/firefighter Olympics and Boxing Event, hosted Sept. 18 by the Bourbon County Sheriff's Office in Uniontown, Kan.

The donated funds will go to the subordinate units of the 891<sup>st</sup> to sustain the Family Readiness groups which support the unit families.

## Kansas Rifle Team Reunion

The Kansas National Guard High Power Rifle Team is planning a reunion to be held at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, in Topeka, on April 10, 2011.

Currently we are trying to compile a list of all past members. If you were ever selected for the State level High Power Rifle Team, when it was active, please contact CSM (R) Robert Lewis. These teams competed in Army Area Matches, Regional Matches, various State Matches, National Matches, and the National Guard Championship Matches.

If you have email please contact me at [lewy62@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lewy62@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 785-235-2248 and provide your current mailing address, phone number and e-mail address. If you know any other past members, who may not receive the Plains Guardian, please contact them and have them contact me with their information.



# 2-137th CAB prepares for Kenya Rifle Competition

By Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Graham

Members of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa Rifle Team are setting their sights on excellence as they prepare to compete in the 2010 Kenya Armed Forces Rifle Championship.

The AFRC, sponsored by the Kenyan government, will be Sept. 20-24. Invited to compete are its armed services as well a myriad of military units from other African countries and CJTF-HOA.

The events are traditional shooting competitions that include pistol and rifle marksmanship. What is not traditional is the physical exertion that an individual shooter must endure.

According to Army Maj. Charles Roseberry, rifle team officer in charge, the key to success at the AFRC is conditioning.

"Our team must be able to cope with the change in altitude to be successful; Kenya is situated at a higher elevation, which affects you physically. The "Falling Plates" match requires you to sprint 100 meter fall to a prone position and fire your weapon," said Roseberry. "Our drills are physically demanding and focus on strength and conditioning."

Along with other drills, the rifle team has incorporated the Marine combat fitness test into their strength and conditioning training.

The Marine CFT consists of an 880-yard sprint, lifting a 30-pound ammo can as many times as possible in two minutes, and a 300-yard course that includes carrying a mock casualty and accurately lobbing a dummy grenade. The CFT's punishing pace tests a service member's endurance and physical prowess.

"Members of our team are already fit," said Roseberry. "The conditioning that we are conducting will prepare them for the challenging and demanding altitude conditions in

Kenya."

Roseberry also said that the AFRC is considered the African military's "World Series of shooting sports," and is their number one training event of the year." The competition attracts several thousand marksmen from across the continent to compete in 10 separate shooting matches.

"We get to represent CJTF-HOA against some of the best marksmen in Africa," said Marine Gunnery Sgt. Gregory Greer, non-commissioned officer in charge of the team. "Before we fire a single round, we have to ensure everyone can stand up to the physical challenges of these events."

"The CFT is only one aspect of our training," said Greer. "We will also conduct cardio drills and hone our basic marksmanship. Our conditioning will lay the groundwork for success on the rifle range. Some of the teams that are competing have trained and lived in these conditions their entire lives. It is a part of them."

The CJTF-HOA rifle team is an eclectic mix of Soldiers, Marines and Sailors that are focused on not only competing, but also on winning the competition.

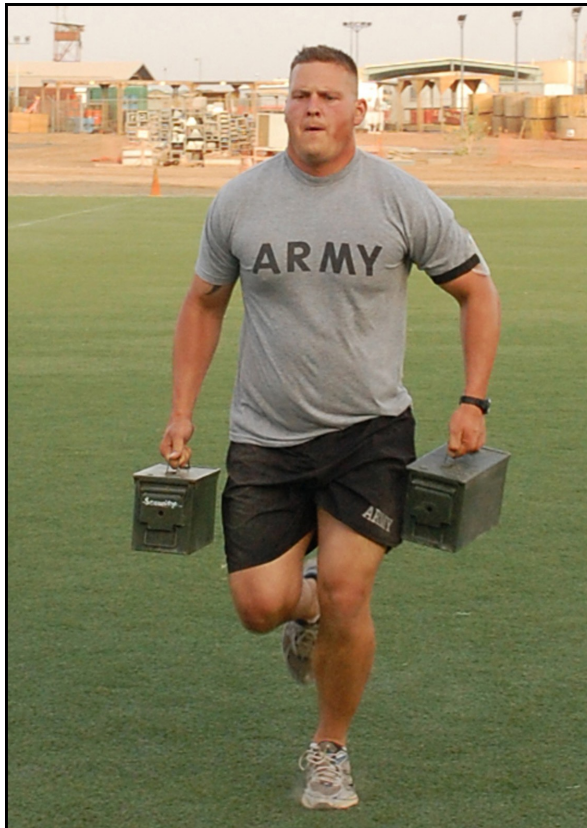
"We won't let challenging conditions beat us," said Pfc. George Sisson, who is assigned to the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, Kansas Army National Guard.

"For everyone on this team, it's all about a love for the sport and a desire to represent our individual units and our families back home," said Sisson.

Preparing to deal with the conditions is just as important as firing your rifle."

Sisson also said that training together builds camaraderie and teamwork.

"It is important to have your battle buddy pushing you," said Sisson. "It helps give you that extra bit of motivation you might need."



Army Pfc. George Sisson Roseberry carries 30-pound ammo cans during conditioning drills, July 5. The conditioning drills were conducted by the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa rifle team in preparation for the 2010 Kenya Armed Forces Rifle Championship, Sept. 20-24. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn D. Graham)



# Braden promoted to Brigadier General

The Old State Supreme Court Chamber in the Kansas Statehouse was packed with well-wishers to see Col. Vic Braden, deputy commander of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard, pinned with the rank of brigadier general in a brief ceremony on Friday, Nov. 12.

A native of Pratt, Kan., Braden, was one of three Kansas Army National Guard colonels to be confirmed as brigadier general by the Senate Confirmation Oversight Committee in October.

Braden thanked the Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting for having confidence in him then thanked 35th Infantry Division commander, Maj. Gen. John Davoren for giving him the deputy commander's position in the division. Braden then commented on how he felt about the support he's been given.

"Communities is what I believe in, and in my life, I have many families," he said. His first layer of family is his biological family, which is his wife, Marla Sue Braden, his daughters, Chelsea and Emily, his brothers and sisters, uncle and aunt, his late mother and father, brother and sister in law. His next layer is his nuclear family, that of his faith, education and legal co-workers. The church members, fellow lawyers and judges, and the college professors and teachers he's befriended that helped him expand his spiritual, career and scholastic life.

Then his extended family of the military, he thanked. "My families keep me balanced, gives me depth and give me resiliency," he said.

Has served overseas in the Persian Gulf, Bosnia and Afghanistan and has earned the Bronze Star Medal, Senior Aviator Badge and Combat Action Badge as well as numerous other awards. Braden is currently a Deputy Kansas Attorney General responsible for the Criminal Litigation Division.



**(Left Photo)** The Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting gives the pinning the whole tradition of ensuring that the new rank of brigadier general doesn't fall off Braden's shoulders by giving them the traditional 'tap'. This is a tradition in the military, one with Braden said he expects, coming from the Artillery and Avionics communities he's been in in the past.

Photos and story by  
Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD



**(Above Photo)** Braden has to lean over to allow his wife, Marla Sue to pin on his new rank of brigadier general.

**(Left Photo)** Braden speaks to the assembled crowd and talks about the different layers of his families that have helped him accomplish his new rank. "The military has given me opportunity and let me travel in places I'd never see," Braden said. "I've had great jobs, met great people, expanded my world and made me a better man. It has shaped my adult life."





# New commander for field artillery battalion

*Photos and story provided by Capt. Larry Leupold,  
2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, headquartered in Hiawatha, conducted a change of command ceremony on Nov. 6, 2010, at the Great Plains Joint Training Center (Kansas Regional Training Institute), Salina, Kan.

Leadership of the historic battalion, with armories located in Hiawatha, Ottawa, Marysville, Concordia, Holton, Abilene, and Clay Center, passed from Lt. Col. John Rueger (outgoing commander) to Lt. Col. Christopher Burr (incoming commander). Col. Lee Tafanelli, assistant adjutant general-Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, and Lt. Col. John Campbell, 635<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group commander, were present to pass the responsibility for the welfare and training of the 580 soldiers of the battalion to the new command.

"The 2-130<sup>th</sup> is a battalion with great tradition of mission accomplishment, and performing in an exemplary manner in support of the Great State of Kansas and the United States," said Burr. "I look forward to working with them through the fielding of one of the Army's newest and most lethal weapons systems, the HIMARS weapon system. I'm looking forward to working with these great Kansans to provide a great service to the state, and the challenge of resetting the formation after the unit's year-long deployment to

Egypt."

"I owe my success to the extremely competent group of non-commissioned officers in the battalion and have learned just as much from them as they have from me," said Rueger.

"It has truly been a honor to serve with the soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery for over five years," said Rueger. "Through adversity, deployments and accomplishments, the tremendous support of the soldiers, families, and retirees of this great organization has remained constant. Our local communities have been there for us each and every day. Under Lieutenant Colonel Burr's leadership, the battalion will continue to grow and prosper with the fielding of HIMARS and beyond."

Burr comes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery from the 635<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group, having been assigned as brigade executive officer. Burr is a life-long resident of Kansas, growing up in Ulysses, Kan. Burr is married to the former Janet Heiman of Garden City, Kan.

Rueger departs after nearly five years in command, including leading the battalion during its year-long deployment to Sinai, Egypt, in support of the Multi-national Force and Observers. The battalion commander since Jan. 9, 2006, he is transferring to Joint Force Headquarters, Kansas Army National Guard.

Rueger is a life-long resident of Kansas, originating from Beattie in Marshall County, Kan. He is the son of former Kansas Adjutant General, the late Maj. Gen. James S. Rueger and Kathy Rueger of Beattie, Kan. He is married to the former Carrie Zorn of Great Bend, Kan. They have two children, Alexander and Caroline.



*(left) Outgoing commander, Lt. Col. John Rueger turns over the colors from 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Anderson.*



*(right) Incoming commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Burr accepts the colors from 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Anderson.*



## Retirees recognized at dinner

Kansas National Guard members that have retired this last year were recognized for their service during a retirement dinner served at the Ramada Inn in Topeka, Kan., on the evening of Nov. 6, 2010.

The eight individuals recognized collectively have given more than 285 years of military service.

"Each one of these retirees," said master of ceremonies, Lt. Col. Mike Erwin, "took to heart the words of Douglas MacArthur during a speech where he stated,

'duty, honor, country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be....'"

Each of these eight officers served in part by developing, guiding and mentoring junior officers.

"Their performance soared through their moral, ethical and legal execution of responsibilities," said Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting. "Without them, the Kansas National Guard would not be such an exemplary force for Kansas today."

**See RETIREES, Page 29**



**(top left photo)** The Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting awards retirees, Lt. Col. Larry Thomas and his wife, Kay; **(top middle photo)** Brig. Gen. Norman Steen and his wife Cheryl; **(top right photo)** Lt. Col. Gloria Sherman and her husband, Roger; **(bottom left photo)** Col. Tim Marlar and his wife Karen; **(bottom middle photo)** Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth Hampton and his wife, Greta; **(bottom right photo)** Col. Larry Hannan and his wife, Laura, with awards. The retirees received a plaque with all of the State's unit crests and the retiree's dates of service. The female spouses received a Molly Pitcher award and the male spouse received a plaque reflecting the 'Song of the Meadowlark'.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD





# Operation Care Package

Story and photos by Spc. Jessica Zullig, 105th MPAD

Members of the Topeka Civitan Club and Boy Scouts of America Pack #478 came together Nov. 1, to put together care packages for the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry currently deployed to the Horn of Africa. This is the third year for the group to send care packages to deployed Kansas Soldiers.

Civitan normally works with the developmentally disabled and stays involved in the community, but during a trip to the Veteran's Administration, David Hodges, Topeka Civitan Club chaplain, was blown away by the amount of courage the veterans have.

"It was speaking to someone who lived the Battle of the Bulge," said Hodges, "hearing that they still had nerve damage from being frost bitten. They have courage."

Two years ago, members of Civitan heard on the news about a company in Afghanistan that were in need of supplies and got involved. Michael Hays, Civitan member and den leader for Boy Scout Pack #478, asked to get the youth involved.

"It's a great example for these kids to be doing something like this," said Hodges, "to be writing letters and cards and showing that respect and giving thanks. That's awesome. If they do it as kids they might do it as adults. We're proud of those kids."

Scouts that were present had looks of excitement on their faces while writing post cards and packing boxes for the Soldiers.

"It goes along with some of the achievements the bears need to do with their badges," said Hays. "Doing this project helps them, helps the troops and falls into what Civitan is all about – community service."

For the past three years, Civitan and the Scouts have been working together to support troops deployed around the globe, and they don't plan on stopping anytime soon.



Member of Boy Scout of America Pack #478 display boxes that will be sent to deployed Kansas Soldiers. This is the third year the pack has participated in sending care packages overseas.

"I hope Soldiers know that they're not forgotten," said Hodges. "We know that they have to make and incredible sacrifice while we get to stay home, but we're thinking about them. They're loved and respected and we care about them."



## From RETIREES, Page 28

(top left photo) The Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting awards retirees, Lt. Col. Steve Ferrell and his wife, Tia; (top right photo) Command Chief Warrant Officer Mark Jensen and his wife, Brenda, mementos for their years of service.



# Road finished at the Kansas Regional Training Institute

Design for the new Salina Kansas Regional Training Institute (KSRTI) range road was barely completed when the 242nd Engineer Company (Horizontal) of Coffeyville and Winfield, Kan., began work on the project in July.

Approximately 25 soldiers from the company spent their annual training clearing, grubbing, cutting soil, installing reinforced concrete pipe (RCP), emplacing erosion control, hauling and compacting fill material. The goal for these engineers was to clear and grub the project, install the RCP culverts and build the roadway up to near final grade level for the road, designed to be 2,678 feet in length with a 32 foot wide aggregate surface and including four different RCP culverts.

The company used a variety of equipment on this project and some of the engineering equipment was on loan from the Salina UTES package, the Air Force and the KSRTI Range Control.

The company also provided the mechanics who worked nonstop to maintain all the equipment while a crew from the Field Support Company, 891<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, Iola and Chanute, Kan., kept all the equipment fueled.

During the following three months a team of sol-



**(above photo)** Adding fill and compacting roadway to finish the 2,678-foot long road.

diers from Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, and Field Support Company, both of the 891st Engineer Battalion, of Iola, Garnett and Chanute, Kan., the 772nd Engineer Mobility Augmentation Company, 891st Engineer Battalion, of Pittsburg and Fort Scott, Kan., and 242<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company worked under the supervision of 2nd Lt. Michael Yoho, spending a total of eight weeks completing the project.

**See ROAD, Page 31**



**(left photo)** 2nd Lt. Michael Yoho surveys the grade of the new roadway. The road had to be surveyed perfectly, allowing for proper drainage and heavy use.

**(above photo)** Officer Candidate Paul Greene cutting in a ditch alongside the roadway with a bulldozer. Many pieces of heavy equipment from several different organizations were used in building the road.

Photos and story provided by the 242nd Engineer Company (Horizontal)





(above photo) An aerial view of the position of the road in relation to the Kansas Regional Joint Training Institute complex.

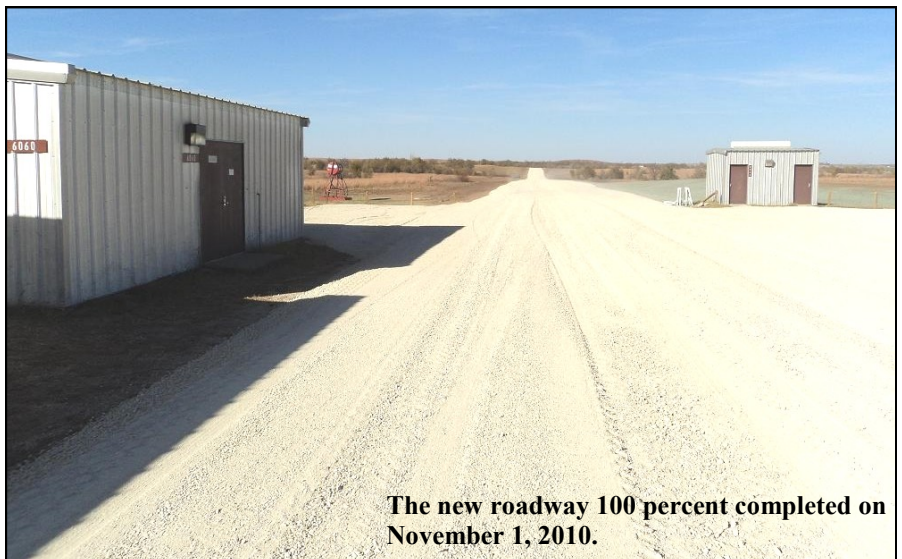
## From ROAD, Page 30

A total of 16 soldiers worked around a difficult and unpredictable schedule working what time they could. With the project immediately behind the M16 zero and M9 ranges, their work plan was dependent on the times the ranges were being utilized.

Officer Candidate Paul Greene lead a four man team to complete the final three week phase of the project which consisted of final grading of the ditches and placing the aggregate road surface. On the following day, Nov. 1, a private contractor finished planting the last of the grass seed ending the construction of the latest and greatest roadway at the KSRTI range.

The newly completed road, unofficially named "Engineer Road", is a major part of some upcoming improvements at the Salina KSRTI range. Over the next few years the M16 zero, M9 and 40 mm grenade ranges will be moved to the West side of Engineer Road along with a new long range sniper range. This will

place all the ranges in line and let the users to walk from one range to another allowing for units to qualify their soldiers quicker and have less transportation requirements. The new roadway is just the beginning and the foundation for these upcoming improvements helping KSRTI to better train the nations fighting force.



The new roadway 100 percent completed on November 1, 2010.



# Krase and Idol inducted into Hall of Fame

Two former Kansas National Guardsmen were inducted into the Museum of the Kansas National Guard's Hall of Fame during a ceremony held at the Ramada Inn in Topeka, Kan., on Sunday, Nov. 7.

Retired Maj. Gen. Lloyd E. "Gene" Krase and retired Col. Paul E. Idol had their names added to the ranks of honored service members. The ceremony was attended by more than 400 people, many of them relatives, past Hall of Fame inductees, honored guests and National Guard members.

Past inductees range from soldiers who served in the Civil War and Wild West to more recent members who battled in Vietnam.

Both new inductees thanked the Soldiers that mentored them in their careers and their family members that supported them all that time.

## Maj. Gen. Lloyd E. "Gene" Krase

Maj. Gen. Lloyd E. "Gene" Krase was born in Kingman, Kan., raised on his parents' farm near Murdock, Kan., and attended Cheney Rural High School. After four years enlisted service as an infantryman, Krase was commissioned through the Kansas National Guard Officer Candidate School and is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College and many other military schools including the Army War College.

His assignments included platoon leader, Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Wichita, Kan.; platoon leader, Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Fort Carson, Colo.; company commander, Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Fort Carson, Colo.; platoon leader, Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, U.S. Army, Republic of Vietnam; commander 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized), Topeka, Kan., and commander, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

He held numerous staff assignments including chief of staff, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized) and chief of staff, Kansas Army National Guard. His final assignment was commander, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Among Krase's awards are the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star



**(above photo)** Retired Maj. Gen. Lloyd E. "Gene" Krase said that he had good teachers and mentors throughout his military career and had all the support from his wife, Judith **(left)**.

Photos by Sgt. Beverly Fortner, 105th MPAD

for Valor with oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal for Valor with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge and many other awards including the Order of Saint Maurice, Primicerius Level and the Honorable Order of St Barbara.

He received a Master of Science degree from Shippensburg State University, Shippensburg, Pa., and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Wichita State University.

Krase is a Master Gardener and has served on various Advisory and Board of Directors including the National Emergency Management Association and the Governor's Council on Bio-Terrorism. Krase retired in 2003 with more than 30 years of commissioned service and a total of over 40 years military service.

**See HALL OF FAME, Page 33**



## Col. Paul E. Idol

Col. Paul E. Idol graduated from high school in Reserve, Kan., in May 1950 and attended Highland Community College.

He enlisted in the United States Army in 1952 and served in Korea as a combat medic. After completing Infantry Basic Training at Fort Riley, Kan., he was shipped to the Far East Command and attended combat medic training at the Eta Jima Medical Aidman School in Japan. He served in combat with the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. After his tour in Korea, he returned to the United States and was assigned first to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division and then the 8<sup>th</sup> Division at Fort Carson Colo., and in June 1954 was released as a staff sergeant.

After release from active duty, he joined the Kansas Army National Guard's 154<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion as a forward observer in Hiawatha, Kan. During this time, he attended Emporia State University from 1955-1957, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Education and began teaching at the junior high school in Wakeeney, Kan.

On July 22, 1957, he graduated from the first class of the Kansas National Guard Officers Candidate School and was commissioned a second lieutenant. His first assignment as an officer was the liaison officer with the 154<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, his old unit. On July 21, 1960, he was promoted to first lieutenant and served with the 135<sup>th</sup> Anti Aircraft Artillery Battalion and then the 235<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion at Hays, Kan. In 1961, Idol received his master's degree in School Administration at Emporia State University and in the same year was transferred back to the infantry, serving with the 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment as a liaison officer.

His civilian occupation was as a principal at Winchester, Kan. until he was called back to active duty in 1968 serving in the Selective Service Headquarters in Topeka. He was released from active duty in 1976 and began a short period of time working for the Kansas State Board of Agriculture.

In 1980, he served as the director of the census for Eastern Kansas. In 1985 he was promoted to colonel as the chief, Selective Service



(above photo) Retired Col. Paul E. Idol thanks all of his relatives for their help, while his wife, Cloeva (left), gives the 'thumbs up' for her husband.

Section, Headquarters, State Area Command, Kansas Army National Guard.

In 1989, he made a run for the state House of Representatives and was a precinct committeemember for eight years. He retired from the military in May 1992 after serving almost 38 years.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Combat Medical Badge, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, United Nations Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, Kansas National Guard State Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Adjutant General Badge for Kansas, Exceptional Service Medal Selective Service System, Korean War Service Medal, Kansas State Emergency Service Ribbon, the Order of Saint Barbara, and the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara.



The Hall of Fame Plaque



# Davoren inducted into University of Kansas Army ROTC Hall of Fame

Maj. Gen. John E. Davoren, commander of the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard, was selected to be inducted into the Jayhawk Battalion Alumni Associations Wall of Fame. The induction ceremony was held Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Military Science Building, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

"I'm honored to be selected as an inductee for the KU ROTC Wall of Fame and am humbled to be included with the others members who have provided outstanding service to our nation throughout their lives," said Davoren.

Davoren was commissioned in 1976 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

"John serves the Kansas National Guard honorably and is very deserving of this induction," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General. "I congratulate him on this selection."

After completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Ranger training he served as a rifle platoon leader, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry at Fort Campbell, Ky. In July 1979, he was assigned to Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and executive officer, 1st Aviation Battalion at Fort Riley, Kan.

Since joining the Kansas Army National Guard, his assignments have included commander, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry; intelligence officer, 69th Brigade; operations officer, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry; commander, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry; commander, 69th Troop Command; deputy commanding general, 35th Infantry Division and assistant adjutant general of the Kansas Army National Guard and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

While serving as the assistant division commander, Davoren lead the Multi-National Task Force-East, KFOR 9 at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, from Nov. 2, 2007, to July 10, 2008, during the division's deployment to Kosovo.



**Above:** Maj. Gen. John E. Davoren (left), 35th Infantry Division commander, Kansas Army National Guard stands next to the display of the Jayhawk Battalion Alumni Associations Wall of Fame presented by a school official (right) during the induction ceremony Oct. 3, at the Military Science Building, University of Kansas, Lawrence. (Photo by Sgt. Beverly Fortner, 105th MPAD)

Davoren's education includes Infantry Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Accounting from the University of Kansas, a master's degree in personnel management from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserves Components Overseas Training Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, Nebraska Meritorious Service Medal, Kansas Emergency Service Ribbon, Expert Infantry Badge, Aviation Badge, Parachute Badge, Air Assault Badge and Ranger Tab.

Davoren and his wife, Debra, reside in Lansing, Kan. Their daughter, Jennifer, resides in Houston, Texas, and their son, Kyle, lives in Colorado Springs, Colo.



# Veterans Receive Additional Benefit and Investment Protection

*KSC Aims to Increase Awareness of and Compliance with Veterans Protection Rules*

The Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner (KSC) is adopting a rule requiring the registered investment community to be aware of and comply with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.) rules about charging veterans for benefits advice.

This announcement comes after reports of so-called “financial planners” charging veterans and their widows for advice otherwise available for free.

Most registered advisers and brokers provide sound, ethical advice to veterans and their families, but Kansas is seeing an uptick in complaints about persons charging fees to veterans to obtain their V.A. benefits. The V.A. prohibits charging veterans a fee for obtaining benefits unless the person is an authorized agent and has a written agreement for fees filed with the V.A.

“Our veterans offered to lay down their lives to defend our nation and way of life,” said Commissioner Wilson. “They and their families deserve our best efforts to prevent these questionable practices before they cause financial harm.”

Wayne Bollig, Director of Veterans Services for the Kansas Commission of Veterans Affairs (KCVA), brought the issue to the attention of Commissioner Wilson.

Bollig hears often of “planners” approaching veterans -- sometimes in their nursing home beds -- to tell them that they can receive V.A. benefits if they just purchase the planner’s financial or insurance product.

Bollig stated, “It is outrageous to see a veteran or veteran’s widow being charged hundreds or thousands of dollars for advice they can get for free from any veterans’ organization in Kansas. The KCVA, with 11 offices around the state, partners with the V.F.W. and the American Legion and provides direct, no-cost assistance. We also work directly with Disabled American Veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, among many veterans service organizations. All provide this advice as well as assistance in completing the forms to any veteran or family member who asks on behalf of a veteran or a widow.”

Many veterans and their families do not know what benefits the V.A. can provide to them. The V.A. benefits may differ based upon one’s combat service, or they may pertain only to those with certain types of medical conditions. Sometimes veterans’ spouses, widows or widowers are eligible. Once a veteran or

his family gets free advice from a veterans group about their eligibility for benefits, then they can seek the advice of an investment adviser, broker, estate lawyer or other professional about planning the benefits into their investment portfolio.

Veterans who are seeking V.A. benefits advice should start with their local veterans’ organization, like the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs at 785-296-3976 or [www.kcva.org](http://www.kcva.org), the V.F.W. or American Legion, or call the V.A. at 1-800-827-1000. All representatives of local veterans groups are accredited and are required by law to attend annual training to maintain that accreditation. None charge a fee, and none require membership in their organization as a requirement.

Once they get this free benefit eligibility information, and if they determine they need further financial advice, they can call KSC at 1-800-232-9580 or visit [www.ksc.ks.gov](http://www.ksc.ks.gov) to check the registration and background of someone whose service they are considering using.

If any person claims they can help get you veterans benefits, ask to see their V.A. authorization letter. They must also present to you a written agreement disclosing their fees and file it with the V.A.

KSC is also providing general investment information for veterans to the KCVA for use in their outreach efforts. KCVA plans to distribute the educational materials at Kansas veterans homes, KCVA field offices and their enhanced veterans.

*The mission of the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner is to protect and inform Kansas investors, to promote integrity and full disclosure by issuers and securities professionals, to investigate and prosecute fraud and to foster capital formation. More detailed information may be found at [www.ksc.ks.gov](http://www.ksc.ks.gov).*

Find the 105th MPAD on FaceBook!  
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Topeka-KS/105th-MPAD/163146507057526>

High Resolution PDF’s of the  
Sentinel are on the TAG’s Home Page



# 995th Maintenance Company supports the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany.

*By Sgt. Kevin Landers, 995th Maintenance Company*

Thirty Soldiers of the 995th Maintenance Company (-), 287th Special Troops Battalion, Smith Center, Kan., provided support at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC), Hohenfels Germany in September.

The 995th Soldiers worked at the Consolidated Maintenance Activity (CMA), Recovery and Maintenance Site (RAMS), and the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Maintenance Shop. Their mission was to repair equipment.

The equipment repaired by the various shops is used for training, and is vital to the mission of the Combat Maneuver Training Center. The RAMS shop provides support to the Observer Controllers. The 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry is the USAREUR Opposing Forces (OPFOR) unit, and supports all OPFOR vehicles to include the M113A3 MBT (Main Battle Tank).

The 995th provided support for all maintenance activities, therefore providing “total” support of the Warfighter mission. Five company Soldiers also completed the User Level Maintenance Cadre Certification Course and another 19 successfully completed Combat Lifesaver Certification.

The unit operated its own shop office and completed 49 work orders with a total of 828 direct labor man-hours and bringing 32 vehicles off deadline. At the Infantry Maintenance Shop, the Soldiers were placed with less experienced active duty mechanics,



**(above photo)** *Spc. Robert Owen and Staff Sgt. Lyndon Ellis install parts on a M88 Recovery Vehicle engine.*

allowing the exchange of valuable training.

“Our active duty counterparts were reluctant to trust us at first, but they quickly realized our capabilities and began giving us their more difficult jobs and utilized our experience to train their mechanics, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Laffery, Allied Trades Technician. “In the end they tried to recruit our Soldiers because of how well they performed!”

“This AT was one of the smoothest and productive periods I’ve ever been involved with,” said Capt. Mark C. Mullinax, 995th Maintenance company commander. “The 995 Soldiers saw immediate impact from their hard work and understood that they were part of the big picture in supporting the warfighter. I’m very proud of the professionalism and dedication of the Soldiers during this rotation.”

The Hohenfels Training Area is located in the Free State of Bavaria in the Oberpfalz (Upper Palatinate) and is named after the market town of Hohenfels. The JMRC trains U.S. Forces for joint and multinational coalition warfare. With over 95 percent of foreign allies in the Global War on Terrorism coming from the EUCOM AOR, the JMRC's location in the heart of the EUCOM area provides the best opportunity for U.S. Forces to train with their coalition partners prior to joining them in combat. It is the largest USAREUR maneuver training area.

**For 995th group photo, see page 37**



**(above photo)** *Spc. Robert Jackson services an M998 HMMWV.*



## From 995th group photo, page 36

The 995th Maintenance Company in Hohenfels, Germany, poses in front of a M113A3 MBT (Main Battle Tank).



## Governor Mark Parkinson appoints Kansans to Military Disability Board

To honor the service Kansas veterans have given to our state and our country, Governor Mark Parkinson has appointed Col. Lee Tafaanelli and Lt. Col. Roger Krull to the Kansas Military Disability Board.

"Many Kansans have answered the call to serve and protect our nation and have done so with unparalleled courage and loyalty," said Parkinson. "I am pleased to appoint Colonel Tafaanelli and Lieutenant Colonel Krull to help uphold Kansas' commitment to supporting our veterans and ensuring they receive the compensation they deserve."

Tafaanelli, Topeka, assumed the position of assistant adjutant general – Army, and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard on July 10, 2010. He has served as a member of the Kansas National Guard for over 30 years in a wide variety of command and staff positions. Prior to assuming command of the Kansas Army National Guard, Tafaanelli served as commander of 69th Troop Command. He has earned numerous awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal and the Combat Action Badge, among others. He earned a master's degree from Kansas State University and the U.S. Army War College and has completed a wide variety of courses with the U.S. Army. In his civilian career, Tafaanelli is a state representative for the 47th District in the Kansas Legislature.

Krull, Wamego, has over 30 years of military service and in his military position he currently serves as the

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas-Land Component full-time manning division chief. In his full-time position he serves as the deputy human resource officer. From October 2008 to October 2009 Krull was deployed with the 287th Sustainment Brigade to Iraq where he served as a liaison officer to the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command. Krull has earned a variety of military decorations and badges including the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with five oak leaf clusters. He earned his associate's degree from Barton County Community College, a bachelor's degree from Upper Iowa University and his master's in management from Webster University. Krull is also a graduate of the Command General Staff Officer College.

The Kansas Military Disability Board is responsible for determining the percentage of total disability and awarding compensation for disability or death in accordance with provisions of K.S.A. 48-261 to 48-271. The Military Disability Board is comprised of five or more Kansas National Guard officers who have been appointed to serve at the pleasure of the governor. Parkinson has appointed and reappointed a number of Kansans to various boards and commissions that work to protect communities and defend the state.



A man with long, wavy brown hair and a black t-shirt is playing a black electric guitar on stage. He has a tattoo on his right arm. In the background, a drummer and another person are visible, and the stage has a red and white striped backdrop.

# Through the Lens

This issue's section of *Through the lens* features photos by Spc. Jessica Zullig. Zullig was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment out of Camp Dodge, Iowa. The unit was attached to 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., and stationed at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq from 2009 to 2010.





**Right:** 1st Lieutenant Anthony Funkhouser, executive officer for 573rd Clearance Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, receives a "low-five" from a school boy in Al Waa, Iraq, March 25.

**Left:** The drummer for The Brian Howe Band gets into the music during a performance for civilians and servicemembers stationed at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq, March 14, 2010.



**Right:** Sgt. Frederick Moore, a gunner for Troop R, 3rd Squadron, 278th



Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard, looks up to smile at the camera at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, March 21.

**Left:** An Iraqi school girl shows her school supplies and soccer ball she received from Iraqi Army soldiers with help from the 573rd Clearance Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, at schools in Al Waa, Iraq, March 25.

**Below left:** Soldiers from 573rd Clearance Company take a break as the sun breaks the Iraq horizon.

**Below right:** A 573rd Clearance Company, 1st Engineer Battalion Soldier welds a grate onto the front of a culvert during a culvert denial mission in the dead of the Iraq night, June





**Left:** Spc. Brandon Watkins, a .50 caliber Browning machine gunner for 2nd Platoon, Troop K, 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment of the Tennessee National Guard, prepares to “roll out” for a convoy escort mission from Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, June 10, 2010.



**Above:** A combat engineer with the 573rd Clearance Company, 1st Engineer Battalion tries his luck with a ground torch system at a training range outside Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq.

**Right:** An Iraqi policeman praises his explosive detection dog after detecting explosives on a vehicle during training at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq, July 10, 2010. The IPs have been training with dogs for three months with help from civilian advisors and Speicher K-9 dog handlers.

**Above:** An Iraq boy holds onto a soccer ball given to him from an Iraqi soldier during a donation drop at schools in Al Waa, Iraq, March 25, 2010. The IA was aided in the event by Soldiers from the 573rd Clearance Company, 1st Engineer Battalion stationed at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.